

213252US-0 PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :  
BRUNO PROVOT ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION  
SERIAL NO: NEW US PCT APPLN. :  
(BASED ON PCT/FR00/00521)  
FILED: HEREWITH :  
FOR: NEUTRON ABSORBENT MATERIAL  
CONTAINING BORON CARBIDE AND  
HAFNIUM, AND PROCESS FOR  
MANUFACTURING THIS MATERIAL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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4. (Amended) Process according to claim 1, in which the grain size of the boron carbide powder ranges up to approximately 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .
5. (Amended) Process according to claim 1, in which the grain size of the hafnium powder ranges up to approximately 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .